



Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services Lineworker Scholarship Application

Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services (FMCS) recognizes that the electric utility industry is facing a large shortage of utility workers in coming years. Today's aging workforce includes an estimated 43,000 apprentice and journeyman lineworkers, half of whom will reach retirement age in the next five to ten years. To address the forecasted shortage of lineworkers and to encourage students to consider a career as a lineworker, FMCS has established two \$1,000 scholarships. Scholarships have been established to assist students pursuing a post secondary education in an electric utility lineworker program.

The electric utility lineworker is the "backbone" of the utility system. The profession represents the *physical* labor required to operate and maintain the electric grid.

In addition to being physically demanding, the lineworker's job can be dangerous. They also respond during the worst weather or disasters, which often cause extensive damage to the electrical lines. However, according to OSHA data, the injury rate within this occupation is on par with other professions. This is a tribute to the high degree of professionalism and concern for safety and safety equipment that are integral to the profession.

The lineworker's job has a strong public service aspect, and may be likened to that of a "first responder." Indeed, in the event of natural disasters such as hurricanes or ice storms, lineworkers are critical in restoring the electric system - and hence community - to normalcy (Source: U.S. Department of Energy, "Workforce Trends in the Electric Utility Industry," 2006., pg. 14).

http://www.oe.energy.gov/DocumentsandMedia/Workforce_Trends_Report_090706_FINAL.pdf

The fund is administered by a scholarship committee at Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services.

The scholarship committee will evaluate all applications and personally interview the finalists. The selection will be based upon the application, financial need, the essay questions, and the ability of the student to maintain a 2.5 grade point average during their first term of college.

Notification of the award will be made by a member of the FMCS scholarship committee.

Payments will be made through the financial aid office of the recipient's college or university. Fifty percent (50%) will be paid at the beginning of the school year and fifty percent (50%) following receipt of a letter and transcript from the student, to the committee, at the end of their first term.

Eligibility:

1. Any applicant enrolling in a lineworker program or any applicant who can prove they are on a waiting list for the next open enrollment period. Preference will be given to FMCS members and residents of Freeborn County and Mower County.
2. Student must have, at the time of application, a 2.5 grade point average and maintain a 2.5 grade point average during their first term of college.
3. No student shall be excluded for race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
4. Applicant must be enrolling in a program leading to certificate to work in the electrical lineworker field.
5. Applications must be received by June 15, 2009.
6. Finalists must be able to meet the selection committee for a personal interview. **Applications should be completed and mailed or emailed ALONG WITH ESSAY QUESTIONS by June 15, 2009 to: FMCS, PO Box 611, Albert Lea, MN 56007** Email: mnelson@fmcs.coop

Applications submitted without an essay will not be considered.

ESSAY QUESTIONS - On a separate sheet of paper please answer the below questions. Please type your response and limit each question to half a page.

1. What are your reasons for pursuing a career as an electric utility lineworker?
2. Who, if anyone, has inspired you to pursue such a career?
3. Explain the role that rural electric cooperatives play in your community?

Resources:

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2006, "BLS Handbook of Methods – Chapter 13: Economic Growth and Employment Projections." (Updated December 2005). Available at <http://www.bls.gov/emp/empmeth01.htm>

U.S. Department of Energy "Workforce Trends in the Electric Utility Industry," 2006. Available at http://www.oe.energy.gov/DocumentsandMedia/Workforce_Trends_Report_090706_FINAL.pdf

www.energy.gov Official site of the United States Department of Energy

2009 - 2010 FMCS Lineworker Scholarship Application

Return with your Essay Questions to:

FMCS

Attn: Mary J. Nelson

PO Box 611

Albert Lea, MN 56007

Email: mnelson@fmcs.coop

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Date of Birth _____ **FMCS Account #** _____

2. FAMILY INFORMATION

Father's Name _____ Occupation _____

Mother's Name _____ Occupation _____

High School _____

Number in family attending college next year _____

3. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Rank _____ Cumulative GPA _____

4. COLLEGE you plan to attend: _____

5. WORK EXPERIENCE List any jobs (including summer employment) you have held during the past three years. Specific Nature of Work Employer Dates of Employment Number of Hours per Week

6. REFERENCES List three (3) personal references and their phone numbers. At least one should be outside the school.

Name _____ **Relationship** _____ **Phone Number** _____

Name _____ **Relationship** _____ **Phone Number** _____

Name _____ **Relationship** _____ **Phone Number** _____

Signature